Conner's Public Speaking DISCUSSIONS

Module 1 [Discussions 1, 2, & 3]

Discussion 1: The Danger of Silence **!!!!!COPLETED!!!!!** ✓

- Part 1 and 2: 1 to 2 paragraphs for each
- 1 paragraph for each peer response

Instructions

- Make sure you label each part of your initial post and submit your response by typing directly in the discussion tool rather than attaching your response as a Word document. This will ensure other students can easily access your post.
- **Direct Link: The danger of silence | Clint Smith (4:23)**

Part 1

- Clint Smith, a passionate poet and educator, speaks about the dangers of silence and encourages us to courageously find our words. In his TED talk, he discusses how silence makes us complicit when it comes to oppression, and that speaking out against injustice is essential for creating change. He asserts, "...we see how the consequences of silence manifest themselves in the form of discrimination, violence, genocide, and war."
- Smith reflects on the core principles that are essential to authentic communication: "read critically, write consciously, speak clearly, tell your truth." He powerfully demonstrates that having a strong, powerful voice requires telling an authentic, truthful, and well-crafted personal story that resonates.
- In this discussion board, you get to break your silence and recall a moment or an event when you should have spoken up. "Silence" can happen anywhere – at work, at home, or in personal relationships. When did you stifle yourself in order to not rock the boat or to try to appease others at your own expense? In 1 or 2 paragraphs, recall an event or a moment when you should have spoken up. After explaining a time when you were silent, it is important to also write about what you would say now.

Part 2

- Clint Smith's authenticity shows the importance of sharing your story. After reading "Chapter 2: Ethics Matters: Understanding the Ethics of Public Speaking", which can be accessed through the Course Resources, describe a few of the principles in the National Communication Association Credo for Ethical Communication (2.2) that resonated with you and why? How will you integrate a few of these credos into your speechmaking? Your response should be 1 to 2 paragraphs.
- Join the discussion by clicking "Start a New Thread," and then click "Post" when you are ready to submit your response. After submitting your initial post due on Friday, respond thoughtfully to 2 classmates by Sunday at midnight.

Reference

- TED. (2014, August 15). The danger of silence | Clint Smith [Video]. Youtube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NiKtZgImdlY

Initial Response:

Part 1 - Clint Smith's TED talk emphasizes the importance of speaking out against injustice and how silence has a negative impact on the issues within society. He encourages students to speak out, confront these issues, and discuss them with others to bring them to light and to bring positive change. A couple of years ago, at my prior base, we had a staff sergeant who did not like one of the new airmen. Not because of his work ethic but because he had a strong accent, and that staff sergeant would mock him and tell him he could speak to him when he spoke "real English." I noticed the discomfort it caused him but chose to remain silent. I knew from other people's experience that this staff would purposely cause issues if a lower rank confronted him, and selfishly, I did not want to deal with the backlash from this person and create more tension, so I remained silent. At that moment, I was very conflicted and felt uneasy. I went out of my way to be there for this new airman as much as possible and let him know he could come to me, but my silence still contributed to the uncomfortable environment when that staff was around. If I could go back, I would address the linguistic racism comments directly and speak out on how his comments negatively impacted not only that new airman but also how he made himself unapproachable due to the tension he created when he was around. I may not be able to go back and unsilenced myself, but I did learn what kind of staff sergeant I wanted to be, and now, as a staff, I ensure the airmen know they are supported.

Part 2 - A few principles from the "National Communication Association Credo for Ethical Communication" resonated with me: advocating truthfulness, accuracy, honesty, and reason and promoting access to communication resources and opportunities. These principles align with sharing your authentic story and building trust and credibility with the audience by ensuring the message is based on reason and facts (Saylor University, 2012). These also ensure that communication is not just effective but is ethical and inclusive. A few other principles that resonate with me are endorsing freedom of expression and diversity of perspective. Encouraging open dialogue and sharing diverse perspectives is crucial for communicating using ethics (Saylor University, 2012). I can integrate these credos into my speech development process by researching my topics thoroughly to ensure the information is clear and accurate. I can also encourage diverse perspectives and create an environment that is respectful and open to other's ideas and feedback on the topic.

References

Saylor University. (2012). *Stand Up, Speak Out: The Practice and Ethics of Public Speaking*. National University; Saylor Academy. https://saylordotorg.github.io/text_stand-up-speak-out-the-practice-and-ethics-of-public-speaking/s05-02-ethics-in-public-speaking.html

Response 1 Hi Jony, your reflection on the incident with your coworker is very common. Sometimes, I think that because of how common this is, people are almost desensitized to it, which is why staying silent can be dangerous, as it starts to become the new "normal," leading to the issue not stopping. Your realization of the power of your position and the positive impact of a simple comment or conversation is significant. It helps you to grow in your position and become the kind of leader you want to be. We have

all had our moments in silence that we may regret, but now, when you observe a situation like that, you can spare your coworkers from further humiliation but also set a precedent for a workspace environment that is more respectful and supportive.

The credos that resonate with you are important. Respecting and understanding other communicators before responding ensures that the dialogue is empathetic and constructive. It is also crucial in creating a safe and inclusive environment. Embracing these principles can help build trust and credibility with the audience. Expressing truth and wisdom is crucial to gaining people's attention and trust, to continue being heard, and to really make an impact on people through public speaking.

Response 2 Hi Sonia, thank you for sharing your story, I can only imagine how awful it was. Your middle school experience sounds incredibly challenging and isolating. It is understandable that you chose to be silent in this situation. The remarks from the 7th grader were uncalled for, hurtful, and based on harmful stereotypes. Sadly, most stereotypes and racism are learned from home. If the area you lived in was predominately Caucasian, then there are probably few opportunities to address the issue and properly educate the newer generation. This is a perfect example of how staying silent can be harmful. Your approach to what you would have done today, to educate and challenge those misconceptions with facts and statistics, is a great way to stand up for yourself and others against prejudices. Addressing the comment directly would have provided a different perspective and potentially disrupted the 7th grader's preconceived notions about race and socioeconomic status. Speaking out against the racial bias and stereotypes, however small it may seem, can challenge one's thoughts and views and even change their thoughts and views. This could have a powerful positive effect on future generations because it could break generational racism, stereotypes, and biases.

Discussion 2: Why Public Speaking and General Education Matters **!!!!!COPLETED!!!!!** ✓

- 1 to 2 paragraphs for your initial post
- 1 paragraph for each peer response

Instructions

- Read "Chapter 1: Why Public Speaking Matters Today," which can be accessed through the Course Resources, and watch the following general education video. Then, in one to two paragraphs, discuss what you have learned about the importance of General Education and highlight some of the reasons why having public speaking skills would be valuable. Refer directly to ideas from the General Education video and Chapter 1 in your answer.
- Join the discussion by Clicking "Start a New Thread," and then click "Post" when you are ready to submit your initial post by Friday. After submitting your initial post, respond thoughtfully to two classmates and personalize by Sunday at midnight.

Initial Response:

The Importance of Public Speaking and General Education

"Chapter 1: Why Public Speaking Matters Today" (2012) and the General Education video highlight the importance of public speaking in various aspects of people's everyday lives. Public speaking skills benefit people in education, personal development, and careers. It involves creating and delivering messages to an audience with a purpose. To create an effective speech, it is important to plan, organize, and revise material (Saylor University, 2012). Public speaking skills enhance informative communication, develop leadership skills, and can be used to influence the world.

General education provides learners with a foundation of knowledge and skills crucial to personal and professional development. It enhances critical thinking and the ability to problem-solve and communicate effectively. Public speaking skills are valuable in general education by helping individuals convey their ideas clearly and persuasively, engage with diverse audiences, broaden their perspectives and understanding, and learn to advocate for change. Whether advocating for small changes or world changes, public speaking allows people to influence others and make positive impacts. It also develops leadership skills, as it is a key component, and mastering these skills leads to contributing new ideas and shaping the future by creating voices that are heard and impactful.

References

Saylor University. (2012). *Stand Up, Speak Out: The Practice and Ethics of Public Speaking*. National University; Saylor Academy. https://saylordotorg.github.io/text_stand-up-speak-out-the-practice-and-ethics-of-public-speaking/s05-02-ethics-in-public-speaking.html

Response 1 Hi Desirae, I agree that general education plays a crucial role in learning and applying public speaking skills, even from an early age, which provides children with the skills needed to become critical thinkers and problem solvers. Public speaking enhances an individual's ability to communicate information clearly and with purpose, which is essential for success in multiple aspects of life (Saylor University, 2012). Not only does it prepare students for their future, it also teaches students how to engage in meaningful conversations and to be respectful for diverse opinions. These skills also contribute to better social skills and builds confidence. I really liked how you pointed out how public speaking skills are taught as early as kindergarten. My thought process instantly jumped to high school, but these skills really are fundamental and the foundation for good communication in general. Thank you for highlighting that and great job on your post!

References

Saylor University. (2012). *Stand Up, Speak Out: The Practice and Ethics of Public Speaking*. National University; Saylor Academy. https://saylordotorg.github.io/text_stand-up-speak-out-the-practice-and-ethics-of-public-speaking/s05-02-ethics-in-public-speaking.html

Response 2 Hi Tiffany, great job pointing out the significance of public speaking in general education. Having the skills to communicate clearly and with confidence is crucial to encouraging people to be more involved and active citizens. It helps individuals to realize the importance of having their voice heard and to properly express themselves in a way that is meaningful and can influence others. The power to speak up and be heard is often forgotten. However, when learning public speaking skills, we are reminded of that power, which already creates a positive impact.

Discussion 3: Introductory Speech **!!!!!COPLETED!!!!!**✓

- Part 1: 3 to 5 minutes
- Part 2: 1 paragraph for each peer response

Instructions

- This 3 to 5-minute speech is a chance to introduce yourself to your classmates. You will also learn about your classmates' diverse intersectional influences. You must start a thread and post your speech before you can read and reply to other threads.
- View the Module 1 Lesson 2 content to watch inviting, personalized examples of great introductory speeches and best practices.

Part 1

- We all have stories to tell and rich, complex histories that borrow from many different intersections in our life. Here is an opportunity to share another side of you with a short 3 to 5-minute Kaltura video that reveals "what you cannot see about me" and showcases a facet of you that isn't obvious and perhaps hasn't been shared. Or, you can share "what you can see about me" or a combination of the 2. This is a great way to paint a unique story about you.

This assignment is an opportunity for you to practice components of public speaking:

- delivery techniques (posture, gesture, eye contact, and vocal expressiveness)
- organization (include an introduction and conclusion)
- central message (what do you want to convey and how can you make it compelling?)
- audience (your classmates serve as an audience –so consider how to tailor your speech to them)
- Refer to the Kaltura Instructions page in the Getting Started module for instructions on recording and inserting your video.

Part 2

- Watch the following video, Good Presentation VS Bad Presentation to see the value of constructive criticism from your peers.
- **Direct Link: Good Presentation VS Bad Presentation (5:12)**
- You will now serve as an audience for your classmates. Respond to at least three of your classmates and reveal why their video was meaningful – what did it help you learn about them? Craft your response to each classmate with cultural humility and empathy. Write at least one paragraph to three of your classmates and note what was working in their speech and where it could improve. Make sure people who have not received feedback are seen.

Initial Response: VIDEO RECORDING

Response 1 Hi Keyana, I enjoyed hearing your story. Your speech was very insightful, and you shared a lot of meaningful details about who you are. I was very impressed with your dedication to your education, and how you are not just going to school to become a nurse, but to gain knowledge and continue learning. It sounds like you have found a career that you are passionate about and enjoy doing, based on your reasons for pursuing nursing. Your speech showed how important family is to you and how involved you are, it sounds like you are all into softball, which is a great way to spend quality time together. You described yourself as being driven, giving your all, and working hard, which sounds like a spot-on description of the kind of person you are because it was shown in your speech. The only feedback I have is it seemed like you were nervous by how you were looking away from the camera a lot, however, you know yourself well because you mentioned how you would like to work on this in your speech. I also noticed that as you were talking about how you would like to avoid using "um" when you speak, you almost said it right after, but you caught yourself and continued. That proves you are already making improvements, great job! Overall, I really enjoyed learning about you and could hear your passion and drive in your speech, you should be very proud of yourself for all you have accomplished.

Side Note: My wife had to record a presentation last night for work that is going to be used in multiple meetings, so it was not live. She told me one of the things she hates about a presentation that is not live is the awkwardness of staring at the camera, as she starts looking away too. So, she used stuffed animals and placed them and her laptop in a position where she was making eye contact with the stuffed animals but on the recording it seemed like she was looking at the camera. Although I could not help but laugh at the silliness of watching her present her presentation to stuffed animals, her idea was creative and brilliant, and the recording turned out great. I am sharing this because it might help you as well when presenting speeches or maybe give you other ideas that may be more helpful for you.

Response 2 Hi Nicholas, thank you for sharing your story. I am sorry to hear you had to give up on your dream of playing professional football due to concussions and the lack of research at that time. I know that must have had a strong negative impact on you at the time. Your story is very inspiring though and says a lot about your character and the kind of person you are. I think it's great that instead of allowing yourself to dwell in that rough situation, you searched for a new career path and found something else you are passionate about. You did not let dropping out of college the first time bring you down or the difficulty of balancing 2 jobs while maintaining a social life with friends and family deter you from reaching your goal. Your speech showed how driven you are. I thought your speech was great, it was inspiring, created a clear image of who you are, was organized and delivered well. However, the position of the camera seemed to be low, making your eye contact and posture lean down. My only recommendation is to position the camera where you are looking straight ahead, you were providing eye contact throughout your speech and sounded confident, I really think it was just the position of your camera that was off.

Side Note: I think it is great you are a paraprofessional. My wife is a registered behavior technician (RBT) and works with kids that have Autism as well. She is working on her master's degree to become a BCBA. I know you mentioned you want to be a special education teacher, but you might be interested in this career path too. Her master's degree is only a year, she gets to work with kids and create behavior plans for kids that have Autism, and being a BCBA, she can essentially create her own schedule, and it gives her the option to work from home or in person or both. She chose this path because she is passionate about what she does, but also there is a need for BCBAs everywhere and the pay is very good. Most ABA companies pay BCBAs $80 an hour. Just thought you might be interested in checking it out.

Response 3 Hi Sonia, thank you for sharing your story. I have never heard of a dog nutritionist, but I found your work very interesting. I love dogs too, I have a 105 pound Saint Bernard named Scarlett who is very spoiled. You sound like you find a lot of joy in working with animals and your hobbies show that you enjoy being active. I liked how you were honest in sharing your journey in school, I think it is great that you took time to figure out what you want to do in life. I have friends who jumped straight into college out of high school who had no idea what they wanted to do but did it because their parents kind of forced it on them and now they are not even using their degrees and say they waisted a lot of money by starting school with no idea of a goal and wish they waited. There is not a "right" time to start school, everyone has their own journey, and it sounds like taking that time was beneficial for you and allowed you to enjoy other passions and explore jobs, which helped you decide on your path now. Your double life of working with dogs as a dog nutritionist and soon to be forensic psychologist sounds exciting. You shared a lot of insight into the kind of person you are, and I thought your tone was good. I did notice that you seemed to look away to gather your thoughts and did use "um" quite a bit, which you pointed out yourself in your speech. You were vocally expressive, however, your voice was quiet, but it also seems like you are naturally soft spoken.

I also have a habit of looking away to collect my thoughts and use "um." Recently I became an instructor for the plane I work on, and a buddy of mine pointed this out to me and recommended that when I need to collect my thoughts, to look towards the back of the room, so I appear to have eye contact and pause a moment or take that moment to take a deep breath or a sip of water. This has really helped me to collect my thoughts and avoid using "um," and continue my lessons with confidence, it also hides the fact that I am collecting my thoughts from the audience, which in my case is the students. Also, my slide presentation helps with organizing what I am teaching, I am not recommending you create a whole slide presentation but you may find it useful to have a couple of bullets ready when presenting that have a couple main points and a maybe a single word that will remind you of a specific story you would like to add. Overall, I thought you did well and enjoyed hearing your story.

Module 2 [Discussions 4 & 5]

Discussion 4: Becoming Fearless **!!!!!!COPLETED!!!!!!** ✓

- Part 1 and 2: 1 to 2 paragraphs for each
- 1 paragraph for each peer response

Instructions

- This two-part discussion allows us to think about repositioning our apprehension about public speaking so it is less intimidating.
- Make sure you label each part of your initial post and submit your response by typing directly in the discussion tool rather than attaching your response as a Word document. This will ensure other students can easily access your post.

Part 1

- **Direct Link: Why We Fear Public Speaking | Taylor Williams | TEDxUF (10:02)**
- Taylor Williams reminds us that the fear of public speaking is number one and recalled that Jerry Seinfeld once said, "he'd rather be in the coffin than giving a eulogy." She notes that we are all terrified and most of it comes down to feeling judged, and is convinced that we are defining it in the wrong way. Taylor recommends that we "think of public speaking as presenting ourselves to the world" and change our framework to remember that we engage in public speaking every time we introduce ourselves to a new person or go on a first date. She adds, "it's about the desire to be known and seen and understood." No need to picture the audience naked. Taylor reminds us that "public speaking is a representation of our truest selves and a celebration."
- After watching the video, mention one or two strategies you would like to consider when giving speeches.

Part 2

- **Direct Link: We Stigmatize Accents, But Language Belongs to Everyone (3:19)**
- Herman Diaz, scholar and novelist, speaks about the practice of "accent profiling" in this 3-minute video entitled, We Stigmatize Accents, But Language Belongs to Everyone. Diaz speaks to the intersectionality of his accent and how it expresses his many cultural identities. He rebukes the advertised workshops that promote changing one's accent and wonders why? This video beautifully showcases an engaging and expressive introductory speech.
- We do not have homogenized voices. Whether you are from the deep South or South America, our voices offer many distinctive flavors and vary geographically depending on where you have lived. Your voice offers us a layered story of who you are. Describe the intersectional influences of your accent (geographical, cultural, etc.).
- Join the discussion by clicking "Start a New Thread," and then click "Post" when you are ready to submit your response. After submitting your initial post due on Friday, remember to personalize a one-paragraph response to two classmates by Sunday at midnight.

References

- PBS NewsHour. (2018, July 3). We stigmatize accents, but language belongs to everyone [Video]. Youtube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xoOLBi8XL7I
- TEDx Talks. (2020, November 16). Why We Fear Public Speaking | Taylor Williams | TEDxUF [Video]. Youtube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IN279ZEzGZo

Initial Response:

Part 1 - Taylor Williams's TED Talk (2020) discussed the fears of public speaking and gave it a new light. She mentioned a study that showed everyone's fear of public speaking lies in the fear of being judged. Williams reminds us that we engage in small "public speaking moments" daily, such as introducing ourselves to someone new, sharing a story at a gathering, and even conversing with others (2020). She believes that public speaking is an extension of these daily natural moments, and that it is not about putting on a performance, but taking the opportunity to be heard, seen, and understood. I thought all her strategies were great and very useful. One strategy that really stood out was redefining public speaking to see it as a connection, instead of letting the fear of judgment take over. Looking at public

speaking as more of a conversation and an extension to everyday life interactions makes it feel less intimidating. Instead of focusing on how others may judge me, I will focus on what I have to say and say it authentically. It's better to be heard by those willing to listen than to have never been heard at all. Another strategy I found valuable is finding that "yes person" to focus on to feel more comfortable, and remembering that it is not about being perfect, it's the interactions we make that truly matter.

Part 2 - Herman Diaz (2018) presented a powerful speech to encourage people to embrace the uniqueness of our accents rather than see it as something that needs to be corrected. He views language and accents as a person's history that reflects where they have been, the cultures they have interacted with, and the communities that have shaped them. This is a beautiful way to describe accents and learn about others. When people seek ways to "correct" their accent, they are taking away from their story and not being authentic to themselves of their journey through life.

I lived in California until I was 5, then moved to Hawaii until I joined the Air Force at 19. For the most part, my "accent" is from California, as that is where I first learned to talk, but at home (Hawaii) and around my friends and wife, who are from Hawaii, I notice a bit of Pidgin accent comes out. For those who may not know, Pidgin is a mix of Hawaiian and English. Due to the history and diversity of the islands, Pidgin was also influenced by Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and a couple of other languages. One of the things I miss about Hawaii is all the diversity and Aloha. As long as visitors respect the island, everyone there is the most accepting and loving people, and accents are looked at to connect people. Asking someone about their accent was asking them to share their story of where they are from. I have met people from all over the world who came to visit the islands and learned so much about each individual's history, different cultures, languages I had not even heard of, and the different dialects depending on the area. Growing up, accents were never shamed or thought about as needing "correction." To be honest, it was a huge culture shock when I first heard someone being shamed for their accent, and more so when I realized how "normal" it was in a lot of places.

When thinking back to our other discussion on how silence can be dangerous, this is a great example. It is not "normal" everywhere to be teased for one's accent, and I have personally observed some people try to "correct" their accent and stop speaking their native language to do this. Being silenced in this way and staying silent is dangerous to languages and cultures. Many languages have been lost or are on the brink of extinction, including the Hawaiian language. As Herman Diaz (2018) explains, language is a blend of geographical, cultural, and familial influences that carry our history, and should be embraced.

References

PBS NewsHour. (2018, July 3). *We stigmatize accents, but language belongs to everyone* [Video]. Youtube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xoOLBi8XL7I

TEDx Talks. (2020, November 16). *Why We Fear Public Speaking | Taylor Williams | TEDxUF* [Video]. Youtube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IN279ZEzGZo

Response 1 Hi Diana, I agree, Taylor Williams' TEDx Talk (2020) did a great job of reframing public speaking to help others to view it as another normal day interaction with others, where we get to share and connect with others. Her speech and strategies helped make public speaking less intimidating. As for your accent, a New York and Jamaican accent is quite the mix. I am sure when others hear your accent, they cannot help but ask you about your story. I thought what you wrote was beautifully said, and I am glad you embrace your accent and do not seek to "correct" it because it also gives you the chance to share your story and is a part of who you are.

Response 2 Hi Patrick, it is very helpful to remember that the audience is just people with their own fears and perspectives. Your approach to public speaking, bringing yourself eye-to-eye with others, is a great way to create a sense of connection rather than intimidation. This helps shift public speaking from a daunting performance into a shared experience and can help sound more natural and impactful when presenting. As for part two, it sounds like the contrast between speaking more formally at home and being surrounded by diverse social environments helped you navigate different social settings easily and create better connections with others. Your ability to shift between styles of speech is a gift, I am glad you use it to build better connections.

Discussion 5: Special Occasion Speech **!!!!!!COPLETED!!!!!!** ✓

- Part 1: 1-2 paragraphs
- Part 2: 4-5 minutes
- Part 3: 1 paragraph for each peer response

Instructions

- In this class, you have the opportunity to present a speech that people are likely to give throughout their lives, and that is the special occasion speech. There are many incarnations, such as a wedding toast, eulogy, dedication, retirement party, baby shower, dinner speech, graduation ceremony, etc.
- Module 2, Lesson 3 provides motivating, moving examples of special occasion speeches for your reference.

Part 1: Audience Analysis

- In Part 1 of your initial post, it is essential that you clearly define the event and the intended audience for your special occasion speech. Perhaps you are accepting an Academy Award at a gala, giving a wedding toast at a real or imagined event, or delivering a commencement speech at your former high school. The events can be real or fictional.
- Tell us what the event is about and who is in the audience in 1 to 2 paragraphs. You need to be detailed in your audience description, including demographic (age, race, gender, etc.), socioeconomic, and psychographic information.
- Read "Chapter 4: Audience Analysis" for a greater understanding of why this hidden asset can improve your presentation. Navigate to the Course Resources to access this reading.
- **Module 2, Lesson 4 has more information on demographics.**

Part 2: Special Occasion Speech

- In Part 2, you will record your speech and insert the video within your initial post. Before you record your speech, refer to Lesson 3's Pause and Reflect activity for some tips that you wanted to apply to your speech to help reduce your nerves.

- Refer to the Kaltura Instructions page in the Getting Started module for instructions on recording and inserting your video.

Part 3: Peer Responses

- You will now serve as an audience for your classmates. Respond to at least three of your classmates and reveal why their video was meaningful — what did it help you learn about them? Craft your response to each classmate with cultural humility and empathy. Write at least 1 paragraph to 3 of your classmates and note what was working in their speech and where it could be improved. Make sure people who have not received feedback are seen.

Initial Response:

Part 1 - When preparing a speech, it is crucial to think about the audience you will be presenting to. Saylor University (2012) discusses the importance of considering various listening styles, demographics, socioeconomic backgrounds, and psychographics to help minimize potential misunderstandings, meet the audience's needs and preferences to enhance a speech's effectiveness. As I wrote my speech, I did my best to keep this in mind to ensure my speech is effective and meaningful for my audience on this special occasion. The event is a high school graduation ceremony. This special occasion marks the graduating students' four years of hard work, dedication, and growth. In my last class, some students talked about their high school experience during the pandemic, so I decided to write this speech for the high school graduating class of 2024. This speech is presented to celebrate the students' achievements, reflect on their journey, and provide optimism and excitement about their future. The graduation ceremony is held in the high school auditorium.

The audience at this graduation ceremony is diverse and includes students, parents, their families, teachers, and other school staff, which consists of about 500 people. The audience is of various races, genders, and cultural backgrounds. The graduating students are between 17 and 18 years old, while the audience is of all ages. The audience is of middle-class socioeconomic backgrounds, who range from professionals to small business owners, or are employed in various industries. The psychographics of the students are ambitious, hopeful, and eager to begin the next chapter of their lives, whether they are getting their first job, pursuing personal dreams, starting college, or joining the military. The parents and families who attend are proud and share the excitement and joy of their children's accomplishments. The teachers and school staff take pride in positively impacting each student's journey through high school and are excited to be celebrating the student's success in graduating.

References

Saylor University. (2012). *Stand Up, Speak Out: The Practice and Ethics of Public Speaking*. National University; Saylor Academy. https://saylordotorg.github.io/text_stand-up-speak-out-the-practice-and-ethics-of-public-speaking/s05-02-ethics-in-public-speaking.html

Part 2 – Speech

Response 1 Hi Keyana, I thought your speech was very meaningful and sweet. I enjoyed hearing a bit about your sister and her husband, you created a picture of both of them, and how you see the love in their marriage as a real-life love story. It seems like you are very close and have a great relationship with both of them. I know this speech can be written for a real or fake occasion, but I hope your sister's wedding is a real occasion because I think this speech would mean a lot to her and create a heartfelt memory for all of you. My only recommendation would be to practice more eye contact with the audience, which I am sure would make it easier to be surrounded by family. You did a great job with your speech. I hope your sister gets to hear it too, it was very thoughtful and meaningful.

Response 2 Hi Jony, thank you for your service. I liked how you shared some challenging experiences in your life to motivate the new Marines. We are all human, and we all make mistakes. Most of us have joined the military between 18 and 20 years old, which is the age at which mistakes happen the most, as it's the transition from being a teenager to becoming an adult. In the military, when we make mistakes, we have a high risk of negatively impacting our career or getting kicked out, which can be a fear for most. You shared your mistake and how it impacted you, but also how you took that experience and learned from it to make yourself a better person and a better marine. I am sorry you had the experience of getting jumped. I cannot imagine how hard that was physically, emotionally, and mentally. A month in the hospital is a long time, I hope you are feeling better man, not just the pain but the trauma from it too. You shared two extremely challenging life experiences and how you got through them by working harder, and how you used core values taught in training to get through these dark times. I thought your speech was meaningful because you were brave enough to share these dark times to motivate and inspire the graduating class of Marines, and show them that even when they are presented with difficult times, they will get through it and should remember those values taught and always seek to grow and learn from their mistakes to get back up and be a better version of themselves. The quote you provided, "It's not a sin to get knocked down, it's a sin to stay down," was a great way to end your speech. You provided eye contact throughout your speech, had a good tone, and spoke clearly. My only recommendation is to position the camera a bit higher. Your speech was inspiring, meaningful, and well presented.

Response 3 Hi Sonia, my condolences on the passing of your loved one. I am sorry for your loss. I cannot imagine how hard this must be on your niece's husband, baby, you, and your whole family. I think it is sweet that you were chosen to give your niece's eulogy because that means that not only did you get to enjoy the time she had on earth and be close with her, but your brother also thinks your relationship with her meant so much to her that she would want you to give the eulogy, that is special, you are that special to her. I know that does not make it any easier to write, as it is a very emotional and difficult time, try to remember all the happy and fun times you had with her. I am not sure what yours or your family's traditions are when it comes to the loss of a loved one, but in Hawaii, we would do a celebration of life. All of that person's friends and family would get together to celebrate the time they got to share with them. Everyone shares happy stories and pictures and brings that person's favorite dishes and drinks. It's a time to celebrate their life and legacy, instead of solely focusing on the sadness of the loved one's passing. There is also a paddle-out ceremony where everyone would paddle out on their surfboard, form a circle, share memories, and throw leis into the water as a symbol of letting go. Maybe having a celebration of life for your niece, where you make your own traditions, could help you and your family through this rough time. I am not sure if you accidentally forgot to add the link to your speech, but I wish you had posted it so we can all show you support during this time. It seems like you were very close to your niece, so I am sure whatever you write will be meaningful and mean a lot to your family for you presenting the eulogy.

Module 3 [Discussion 6 & 7]

Discussion 6: Empowering Your Performance !!!!!!COPLETED!!!!!! ✓

- Initial post should be 1 to 2 paragraphs
- 1 paragraph for each peer response
- This discussion offers practical strategies to improve your performance in life and in your presentations. Watch the talk by Chris Anderson, the curator and head of TEDTalks, who discusses insider secrets of what makes a great presentation. Amy Cuddy, a social psychologist, reveals how body language can impact your success. You'll also critically analyze your own special occasion speech from last week, contributing a layer of self-awareness. Please submit in the message section and not in a Word doc so other students can easily access.

Videos

- **Watch Chris Anderson's segment, TED's Secret to Great Public Speaking.**
- **Direct Link: TED's secret to great public speaking | Chris Anderson (7:56)**
- **Watch Amy Cuddy's TEDTalk, Your Body Language Can Shape Who You Are.**
- **Direct Link: Your body language may shape who you are | Amy Cuddy (21:02)**

Instructions

- Watch your own Module 2 special occasion speech, and then use a few of the examples from the lesson to highlight strategies that you can use to enhance your informative speech. Did viewing these videos change your presentational approach? Please explain why or why not. Discuss some techniques that you would employ in your professional and personal life – and also strategies as they apply to your next presentation.
- Join the discussion by Clicking "Start a New Thread," and then click "Post" when you are ready to submit your initial post by Friday. After submitting your initial post, respond thoughtfully to 2 classmates and personalize by Sunday at midnight.

References

- TED. (2016, April 19). TED's secret to great public speaking | Chris Anderson [Video]. Youtube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-FOCpMAww28
- TED. (2012, October 1). Your body language may shape who you are | Amy Cuddy [Video]. Youtube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ks-_Mh1QhMc

Initial Response: Chris Anderson and Amy Cuddy's TED Talks provide strong insights into enhancing public speaking. Anderson (2019) focuses on what makes a great presentation and effectively conveying ideas. He suggests that a great presentation is based on a single idea and urges speakers not to overwhelm the audience with multiple concepts. He explains the importance of making ideas relatable by building ideas with familiar concepts and giving listeners a reason to care, to ensure the message is engaging and memorable (TED, 2019). Cuddy (2012) points out how impactful body language is on confidence and perception, and how nonverbal communication shapes people's interactions, mainly by "power posing," which she argues can boost the speaker's confidence and presence with the audience. She explains that by the speaker being aware of posture and practicing expansive posture before presenting, speakers can reduce anxiety and project authority and instead reinforce their words through a strong physical presence (TED, 2012).

Anderson's (TED, 2019) strategy of focusing on one central idea is beneficial for informative and persuasive speeches because the speeches should not overwhelm the audience with excessive details but instead focus on a clear and structured key concept. I can help the audience connect with new information effortlessly by using relatable analogies and examples. For my persuasive speech, I can start with an attention-grabbing hook that creates curiosity, refine the focus to one central idea, and use familiar concepts to make the arguments more accessible. Applying Cuddy's (2012) strategies on body language and power posing, I can help my audience feel more engaged and trust the information I present, I can use more open gestures, and steady movements further support clarity, and help me appear knowledgeable and engaging. These strategies also benefit professional settings, negotiations, and daily conversations, to help provide engaging storytelling and confident nonverbal cues to increase our influence and deliver more impactful messages.

References

TED Talks. (2016, April 19). *TED's secret to great public speaking | Chris Anderson* [Video]. Youtube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-FOCpMAww28

TED Talks. (2012, October 1). *Your body language may shape who you are | Amy Cuddy* [Video]. Youtube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ks-_Mh1QhMc

Response 1 Hi Nathaniel, Chris Anderson's (2016) and Amy Cuddy's (2012) TED talks were insightful and provided valuable information for presenting a speech, especially for our informative and persuasive speeches. You mentioned how you will be using Cuddy's (2012) research on cortisol and testosterone changes based on poses to improve your confidence and presence. That's great! Our textbook, "Stand up, Speak Out" (Saylor University, 2012), also explains the importance of making information transparent and interesting for the audience and how, by presenting with strong body language, you can enhance the clarity and engagement of your speech, making your message more memorable and impactful. I found Anderson's (2016) principle of "Giving your listeners a reason to care" crucial for an effective speech as well, connecting new knowledge to the audience's current knowledge and making the information relevant and useful is a big thing to consider when writing and presenting our persuasive speeches so that our audience is more likely to be engaged and retain the information presented. Great job on your post, and I look forward to hearing your speech. Good luck!

References

Saylor University. (2012). *Stand Up, Speak Out: The Practice and Ethics of Public Speaking*. National University; Saylor Academy. https://saylordotorg.github.io/text_stand-up-speak-out-the-practice-and-ethics-of-public-speaking/s05-02-ethics-in-public-speaking.html

TED Talks. (2016, April 19). *TED's secret to great public speaking | Chris Anderson* [Video]. Youtube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-FOCpMAww28

TED Talks. (2012, October 1). *Your body language may shape who you are | Amy Cuddy* [Video]. Youtube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ks-_Mh1QhMc

Response 2 Hi Diana, Chris Anderson's (2012) TED Talk provided many great strategies for creating a great speech by focusing on one clear idea, not overwhelming the audience with too many concepts, and making the idea relatable by using familiar concepts to help the audience be more engaged and the message be more effective and memorable. His speech also aligns with "Stand up, Speak Out" (Saylor University, 2012), which talks about focusing on one main idea and using storytelling examples and visuals to keep the audience engaged and create an impactful message. It is great that you plan to use this strategy for the next speech. These strategies will be beneficial, especially since we are expected to use visuals, and it will help us keep the audience engaged and make our speech more effective. Cuddy's (2012) insights on body language and power posing were equally valuable. By being intentional with your posture and gestures, you not only appear confident but also help your credibility, as our body language can influence perceptions. Being aware of your body language in your professional life will influence perceptions and outcomes, and combining all these skills can be very beneficial in helping us grow in our careers and be better leaders. Good job on your post Diana, best of luck with your persuasive speech!

References

Saylor University. (2012). Stand Up, Speak Out: The Practice and Ethics of Public Speaking. National University; Saylor Academy. https://saylordotorg.github.io/text_stand-up-speak-out-the-practice-and-ethics-of-public-speaking/s05-02-ethics-in-public-speaking.html

TED Talks. (2016, April 19). TED's secret to great public speaking | Chris Anderson [Video]. Youtube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-FOCpMAww28

TED Talks. (2012, October 1). Your body language may shape who you are | Amy Cuddy [Video]. Youtube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ks-_Mh1QhMc

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Discussion 7: Informative Speech !!!!!!COPLETED!!!!!! ✓

- Part 1: a few sentences about your topic, a brief keyword outline, and three credible sources
- Part 2: 5–7 minutes
- Part 3: 1 paragraph for each peer response

Instructions

- Your 5 to 7-minute informative speech is an opportunity to instruct or educate on a topic with a social justice focus. You will provide new or useful information, insights, or perspectives on a topic, which should be substantiated by data, statistics, or research. The goal is to increase the audience's understanding and knowledge surrounding a social justice issue. Your job here is to educate and not persuade or take a position. Informative speeches can turn into persuasive speeches if you take a strong position; so be careful to make it educational. Avoid words like "I believe, I feel — or anything persuasive in nature. You can use a similar topic in your upcoming persuasive speech, but your informative and persuasive speeches will have a completely different execution style. Practice and time your speech beforehand so you don't go over the limit.

Part 1: Topic and Outline

- Research topic ideas related to social justice issues or revisit the Pause and Reflect activity from "Lesson 1: Say Something That Matters". In the message area, write a few sentences about the importance of your topic. Also attach a brief key-word outline of your informative speech and list at least three credible reference resources at the end in APA style. The lesson has an Outline Exemplars for the key-word outline that you can use. Additionally, you can use AI as a Supporting Tool while writing your outline.

Part 2: Informative Speech

- In Kaltura, you will record your speech and post as you did with your introductory and special occasion speeches. Module 3 Lesson 5 has many examples of awesome informative speeches with a social justice focus that you should review beforehand.
- Refer to the Kaltura Instructions page in the Getting Started module for instructions on recording and inserting your video.

Part 3: Peer Responses

- You now serve as an audience for your classmates. Respond to at least 3 of your classmates and reveal why their video was meaningful, and what you learned. Craft your response to each classmate using cultural humility and empathy. Then, write at least 1 paragraph to 3 of your classmates and note what was working in their speech and where it could improve. Make sure people who have not received feedback are seen.

Initial Response:

Part 1: Topic and Outline

Climate change is not just an environmental issue. It is a profound social justice concern, and its impact consequences fall hardest on marginalized communities, who often lack the resources to adapt and recover. This issue affects food, health, infrastructure, and biodiversity. The crisis deepens current inequalities, from rising sea levels that threaten coastal populations to extreme weather events that disproportionately impact low-income families. If this crisis is not addressed, climate change will continue to intensify, leaving future generations with damage that will be irreversible. Addressing this global crisis protects the Earth, ecosystems, and communities. Attached to this discussion is an outline and references used for my informative speech on understanding the crisis of the global impact of climate change and exploring solutions. - **Part 2: Informative Speech**

Response 1 Hi Patrick, your informative speech on mental health was insightful and impactful. You explained the importance of mental health as a global issue and the need for awareness and early intervention to help prevent chronic mental health issues. You provided statistics and credible references, such as the World Health Organization, with relatable, real-life examples to emphasize the

significance and consequences of mental health issues. One that I found very alarming is how one in 8 people suffers from mental health issues. Providing statistics and credible references showed that you researched the topic and presented reliable and valid information, enhancing your credibility as a speaker, and kept the audience (me) engaged throughout your speech. Good job clearly organizing your points, defining mental health, explaining the negative physical impacts it causes, and providing a solution of early intervention in schools to help catch and prevent the issue. I thought your solutions of early intervention and applying school-based mental health programs were thoughtful and meaningful, as they would help reduce symptoms of anxiety and depression and help create a stigma-free environment. Your speech was easy to follow and engaging. I found what you said at the end, "Mental health is not just about the knowledge, it's about creating a society where no one suffers in silence," very impactful and effective. A couple of things I thought would help your speech be even more effective are practicing more eye contact with the audience and posture, which made you appear nervous when presenting. However, this did not affect the impact of your message. Great job presenting a meaningful and engaging informative speech.

Response 2 Hi Sonia, your informative speech on poverty provided complex, deep-rooted issues of poverty. I was shocked to hear how over 700 million people around the world live on $2 a day. That was a great hook, but an unfortunate statistic. It was eye-opening and sad to learn about the generational poverty and how the cycle of disadvantage can continue without proper intervention. Good job using credible sources, such as the World Bank, World Health Organization, and the United Nations Children's Fund, showing you researched the topic with reliable sources, which enhances your credibility as a speaker. I like how you started your speech with a shocking statistic (the hook) and then broke down the causes, effects, and solutions, making your speech easy to follow and engaging. By stressing awareness and encouraging conversations about the issue as a first step toward solving poverty, your call to action was meaningful and a strong and effective way to end your speech. You had great eye contact and empowering hand gestures throughout your speech. At the beginning of class, I remember you wanted to work on not using "umm," you should be proud of yourself because you did not use "umm" once during your speech. Great job!

Response 3 Hi Keyana, I enjoyed listening to your informative speech on mass incarceration and the need for prison reform in the United States. You spoke about the systemic issues, such as racial and economic disparities, and did well explaining how deeply intertwined these are within the justice system and how they perpetuate inequities. I liked how you spoke about the importance of fair sentencing and rehabilitation opportunities, then added a credible source as you shared how 600,000 prisoners are released each year and return within a couple of years, because they are not prepared to live outside of bars. This is a sad, hard truth, and it was a great statistic in your speech because it highlighted how crucial it is to prepare prisoners to live a normal everyday life and stop the vicious cycle. I thought your speech was meaningful because you spoke about a topic that is often overlooked or forgotten and encouraged your audience to reflect on how the current practices impact lives and communities. You also made good eye contact, had a calm tone throughout your speech, and were knowledgeable about your topic. Great job providing a powerful speech that was engaging and thoughtful.

Module 4 [Discussion 8]

Discussion 8: Persuasive Speech

- Part 1: 8-10 minutes
- Part 2: 1 paragraph for each peer response

Instructions: In Lesson 7, you wrote a two-page assignment analyzing your 8 to 10-minute persuasive speech with a social justice focus. You have the option to use presentational aids.

Part 1: The focus of the final persuasive speech is to get your audience to act, think, or feel differently about a social justice issue of your choice. Lesson 8 includes two excellent examples of persuasive speeches focusing on social justice.

- Refer to the Kaltura Instructions page in the Getting Started module for instructions on recording and inserting your video.

Part 2: You now serve as an audience for your classmates. Respond to at least 3 of your classmates and reveal why their video was meaningful and what you learned. Craft your response to each classmate using cultural humility and empathy. Write at least 1 paragraph to 3 of your classmates and note what was working in their speech and where it could improve. Make sure people who have not received feedback are seen.

Initial Response: - Persuasive Speech Posted

Response 1 Hi Patrick, your persuasive speech on mental health was very meaningful and impactful. You described the daily struggles of mental health in a way that everyone can relate to and has struggled with at some point in their life. The phrase "I'm fine" when you truly are not is sadly a common response to hide struggles, which is very relatable for everyone. I learned a lot from your speech, especially the connection between mental and physical health. I was very shocked to hear your statistic about how people with mental health illnesses can die 10 to 20 years earlier than the general population. Saylor University (2012) explained the importance of using language that is suitable for the speaker, audience, context, and topic. You did a great job using appropriate language for your audience, context, and topic of mental health issues and avoiding stigmatizing terms. Saylor University (2012) also explains how vivid language can help the audience create a mental image, which enhances their understanding and makes the speech more memorable. You effectively used vivid language and personal anecdotes, which made your speech engaging due to the imagery and memorable. Great job including specific examples and statistics to support your point. You also had great composure, hand gestures, and eye contact. I enjoyed listening to your speech, it was memorable, engaging, and meaningful.

References

Saylor University. (2012). *Stand Up, Speak Out: The Practice and Ethics of Public Speaking*. National University; Saylor Academy. https://saylordotorg.github.io/text_stand-up-speak-out-the-practice-and-ethics-of-public-speaking/s05-02-ethics-in-public-speaking.html

Response 2 Hi Keyana, I enjoyed your persuasive speech on the urgent need for mental health support. You provided a lot of great information on the topic. It was very eye-opening how mental health also starts to affect an individual's relationships, job, and home life. Individuals do not always realize this, especially in the midst of the struggle. Your information on why mental health matters, as it is a human right, and how providing more resources can reduce homelessness, incarceration, and substance abuse was also very eye-opening because I did not make the whole connection as to how it would reduce those aspects as well. Mental health is healthy and should be normalized to seek help rather than fighting the battle silently, especially because I am sure we have all struggled with mental health at some points in our lives. You did a great job, including multiple solutions, and made it very relatable. Thank you for sharing your own experiences as well. Saylor University (2012) explains how PowerPoints clarify complex information, enhance the memory retention of the audience, add visual interest and variety, and enhance the speaker's credibility. Your PowerPoint was well-designed and a great aid to your presentation. I also liked your suggestion of including mental health resources in school orientations as one of your solutions. Overall, your speech was engaging, meaningful, and impactful, you had good eye contact and is very knowledgeable on the topic of mental health. Thank you for sharing.

References

Saylor University. (2012). *Stand Up, Speak Out: The Practice and Ethics of Public Speaking*. National University; Saylor Academy. https://saylordotorg.github.io/text_stand-up-speak-out-the-practice-and-ethics-of-public-speaking/s05-02-ethics-in-public-speaking.html